

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     PARIS 28711 01 OF 02 010704Z

17  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07

NRC-05 OES-06 ERDA-05 FEA-01 AID-05 DOTE-00 CU-02

SAJ-01 EA-07 /129 W  
----- 113432

R 301557Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5570  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28711

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR FR IR  
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S OCT 4 - 7 VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 9629

1. THE FORECAST OF GISCARD'S VISIT TO IRAN GIVEN TO  
EMBOFF SEPT. 29 BY QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE NEAR  
EAST HENRI SERVANT TALLIED CLOSELY WITH THAT IN REFTEL.  
IN ADDITION, SERVANT SAID THAT A WIDE-RANGING BILATERAL  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT PROBABLY WILL BE SIGNED.  
AMONG THE PROJECTS ON WHICH SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS  
EXPECTED TO BE MADE, HE MENTIONED SIGNATURE FOR THE  
SALE OF TWO NUCLEAR REACTORS, ROAD AND RAILROAD  
CONSTRUCTION, AND INCREASED TECHNICAL COOPERATION,  
ESPECIALLY IN THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS,  
NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT FRANCE WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET  
THE REQUESTS OF "THOUSANDS" OF STUDENTS FOR ENTRY  
TO THE 4000-STUDENT FRENCH LYCEE IN TEHRAN. ANOTHER  
SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH ALSO HOPE TO WRAP  
UP A LARGE SALE OF AIRBUSES, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE LESS  
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PAGE 02     PARIS 28711 01 OF 02 010704Z

SANGUINE ON THIS SCORE.

2. SERVANT CONFIRMED THAT ON THE MILITARY SIDE, NOTHING SIGNIFICANT IS PLANNED. HE SAID THAT THE QUAI HAD MADE NO RECOMMENDATION ABOUT OIL DISCUSSIONS IN ITS BRIEFING FOR THE PRESIDENT, THIS BEING A FIELD IN WHICH GISCARD IS EXPERT AND, THEREFORE, IN "THE PRESIDENTIAL DOMAIN". HENCE, SERVANT HAD NO IDEA WHETHER GISCARD WOULD URGE OIL PRICE RESTRAINT.

3. AS FOR POLITICAL MATTERS, SERVANT COMMENTED RUEFULLY THAT HE WAS TIRED OF UNDERLINING IN BRIEFING PAPERS THE HEAVY PREDOMINANCE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN IRAN. BACKING OFF SLIGHTLY, HE NOTED THAT THE SHAH SEEMS AWARE OF GROWING AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CRITICISM OF MASSIVE ARMS SALES TO IRAN, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IS TESTING OTHER POSSIBLE "FRIEND-SHIPS", INCLUDING THE SOVIETS. SERVANT ALSO REMARKED ON THE SHAH'S ISOLATION BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND AT HOME. HE OBSERVED THAT IT IS ALMOST AS DIFFICULT TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON IN IRAN AS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN; EVERY ONE IS AFRAID TO

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PAGE 01     PARIS 28711 02 OF 02 010702Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07

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SAJ-01 EA-07 /129 W

----- 113401

R 301557Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5571

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28711

TALK, STUDENTS ARE DISAFFECTED AND SECURITY PROBLEMS ARE RIFE. HOWEVER, HE SAW NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE REGIME.

4. GIVEN THE SHAH'S PRETENTIONS TO WORLD LEADERSHIP AND IRAN'S HIGHLY STRATEGIC POSITION, SERVANT SAID THAT GISCARD AND THE SHAH WOULD DISCUSS AT LENGTH REGIONAL AND WORLD PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE GULF AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE "EXCELLENT RAPPORT" BETWEEN THE TWO MEN SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS, HE SAID, BUT EXCESSIVE IRANIAN PROTOCOL WILL MAKE THE VISIT HEAVY GOING.

5. COMMENT: THE FRENCH RECOGNIZE IRAN'S ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND THAT THEY ARE LATE-COMERS IN TRYING TO EXPLOIT IT. THEY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT MAKING IMMEDIATE LARGE INROADS INTO THE POSITIONS THAT AMERICANS, GERMANS, BRITISH AND JAPANESE HAVE ESTABLISHED. BUT THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOOD  
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PAGE 02     PARIS 28711 02 OF 02 010702Z

RAPPORT BETWEEN GISCARD AND THE SHAH AND AN APPARENTLY CONTINUING IRANIAN CULTURAL INTEREST IN FRANCE WILL HELP CREATE A MODEST ENLARGEMENT OF THE IRANIAN MARKET FOR FRENCH GOODS AND GREATER SECURITY FOR OIL SUPPLIES FROM IRAN. WE SUSPECT THAT SOME THINKERS IN THE QUAI, LOOKING TO THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE, WOULD NOT WISH FRANCE TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CURRENT REGIME ANYWAY. THEY RECKON THAT BY REMAINING SOMEWHAT DETACHED, FRANCE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PROFIT FROM THE SITUATION IN POST-SHAH IRAN.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PARIS28711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760370-0050  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976092/aaaaabot.tel  
**Line Count:** 155  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEHRAN 9629  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GISCARD'S OCT 4 - 7 VISIT TO IRAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, FR, IR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006